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IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2002

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Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

New Exhibit On Saline History

Last year we reported on the activities surrounding the celebration of the founding of Saline by **Orange Risdon** in 1832. Now their artifacts have come to us and many items about the history of Saline are on display. An **Open House** kicking off the exhibit was held on February 10th. Come down and visit, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from noon- 4 PM or by appointment. Featured items include several models by Brian Gerbach (Saline H.S. Class of 1982) of the **Rentschler Farm** (1906), The **Blaess Schoolhouse** and the **Saline Exchange** (1834), maps showing the roads surveyed by Risdon in the 1820s, information on Saline's schools and many other interesting items. The exhibit will be up until March 31.

Photo: Susan Wineberg
The WCHS dedicates a plaque in 1954 in honor of Orange Risdon. Mayor Leutheuser and Blanche Mead, a great granddaughter of Risdon, look on.

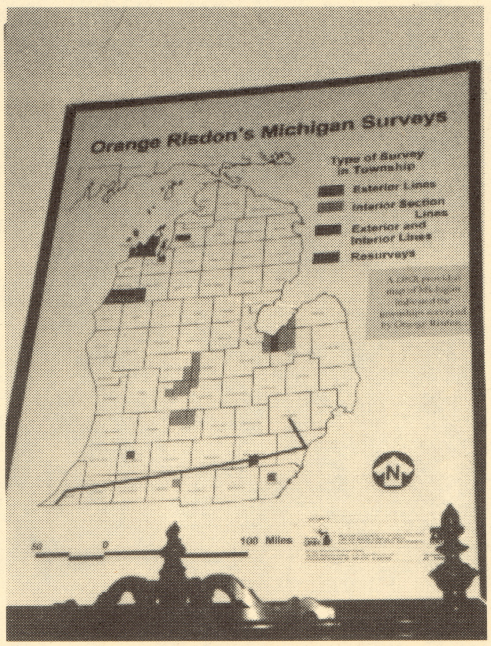


Photo: Susan Wineberg
Orange Risdon's surveys 1815-1825.

Photo: Susan Wineberg
Bird's Eye Map of Saline, 1860s.

Volunteers Needed

Help!!! President Walters needs volunteers for a number of tasks. These include someone who will **recruit and manage docents** for our museum hours; someone who will do our **program for next year**; someone to do **public relations** for us; **new board members**; someone to **manage the Museum Shop**; and someone to **organize files** at the Museum. This is a tall order so if you are interested in even one of these jobs, please call Pauline at **734-662-9092.**

March Program

Mark you calendars for Sunday, March 24th, when **Tammy Szatkowski** will give a lecture and tour of the **Sindecuse Dental Museum** on the UM Campus.

BY CAROL MULL

Freedom Bound: The Underground Railroad In Washtenaw County

Photo by Susan Wineberg

1317 Pontiac Trail, 1836 home of Wm. R. Perry, active with the Underground Railroad. 1989

On November 4, 2001, ***Carol Mull,*** *the former Underground Railroad Project Coordinator for the Arts of Citizenship Program at the University of Michigan, spoke to a crowd of some 50 people at Greenhills School. Her talk was jointly sponsored by WCHS and the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. Mull's talk was preceded with introductions by Pauline Walters, Nancy Snyder and Marnie Paulus of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission.*

Mull discussed the difficulty of researching this topic, the references she has found most useful, and then led us on tour of local sites through a slide presentation. Before beginning her slide presentation, she introduced ***Michelle Johnson****, the* ***Michigan Freedom Trail Coordinator*** *and liaison to the National Park Service for the Michigan Underground Railroad Council of which Carol is also the Treasurer.*

"This is the story of the Underground Railroad in Washtenaw County, or rather, part of the story, because the story is so big I will only be able to touch on highlights. First, however, what was the Underground Railroad? It was a system of people who helped slaves escape from the southern United States in the years before and during the Civil War (1830s-1860s). There were no trains, but people were called "conductors" because they guided fugitive slaves to secret hiding places called "stations." Slaves traveled trails and roads, going north mostly on foot and at night, following the North Star. Conductors helped them with food, clothing and transportation. Ultimately, the goal was to reach Canada (often via Detroit), where the arm of the US law could not touch them. The system was one of great secrecy, so many in the system did not know each other because to do so was to risk their lives. Although the secrecy makes it difficult to give exact numbers, we know that thousands of slaves used the system.

This (slide) is a map from 1860 that shows some of the escape routes from the south. People don't often realize that not all the escape routes went north. One thing we need to remember about Michigan is that in the 1830s it was very sparsely settled. Settlement began in earnest after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, but it was not densely populated. Consequently, slaves often had to travel long distances between farms once they got to Michigan. In Washtenaw County 80% of the people were farmers. A map of 1868 of Ypsilanti illustrates the great distances even at this late date.

However, the abolition of slavery was a central political issue as early as 1836 in Ann Arbor, with the formation of the **Anti-Slavery Society** which held its first meeting at the **First Presbyterian Church.** At the former site of this church, (now the home of the ***Ann Arbor News)*** is a state marker explaining the formation of this society. Important to the study of the Underground Railroad is the map done by **Wilbur Siebert** (1866-1961) showing the trails in Michigan through Jackson, Washtenaw, Lenawee and Wayne County. Siebert was a Professor of European History at Ohio State University and began his research on the Underground Railroad while some conductors were still alive. His interviews with them and his books, which are considered the seminal works on the Underground Railroad, are part of a large collection held by the Historical Society of Ohio.

Where do we get information on Michigan and specifically on Washtenaw County? How can we get the names of the people involved and learn how the system operated? One source is the census, which is useful for tracking African-Americans who actually stayed in the county. The census gives us information on households including names of all residents and tenants, occupation, date and place of birth, and occupation. The 1840 census is useful because it helps interpret the overall population and situation in the county just as the UGRR was developing. For example, in 1870 there were still only 8,000 dwellings in the entire county.

Newspapers published at the time are another good source. One in particular,

the Abolitionist paper The ***Signal of Liberty***, was published in Ann Arbor from 1841-1848 by **Theodore Foster** of **Scio Township** and **Guy Beckley** who lived at **1425 Pontiac Trail**. [Beckley's house was just accepted by the National Parks Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, as an official UGRR site and is the only one in Michigan at the moment.] One of the things the newspaper did in addition to being an arm of the Liberty Party was run articles describing what it was like to be a slave, since many in Michigan were really ignorant of the horrific conditions under which slavery operated. Lurid descriptions helped add members to their ranks, and one in particular dealt with a slave who had managed to get to Adrian without the help of the UGRR. The ***Signal of Liberty*** was published in one of Anson Brown's commercial blocks on Broadway in Lower Town (known as the Huron Block), a building which unfortunately was razed in the 1960s for a motel.

Other sources are autobiographical accounts of slaves, which they were encouraged to write after they made it to Canada or a safe haven. Problematically, these often don't mention names, since many helpers were still alive and thus endangered by exposure. Also important to Michigan and the rest of the North was the passage of the **Fugitive Slave Act in 1850.** This made it unlawful to harbor an escaped slave, and thus slavecatchers could appear and would be within their rights to reclaim their "property." Previously, slaves who had made it to Michigan were 'safe' and could not be taken back. Many abolitionists in Michigan defied this law, however, and paid fines and went to jail to protect slaves who were caught here.

The **Nathan Thomas** papers are a very valuable source describing events in the State of Michigan. Thomas, a conductor from **Schoolcraft, Michigan,** wrote a history of his activities with the Underground Railroad and named the people that he knew about. Many of his letters are very difficult to read, but one describes the first fugitive to make it to Michigan in 1836 using stops on the Underground Railroad. He also mentions that the first slave reached Washtenaw County in 1838 and stayed with **Amasa Gillett** of **Sharon Township** for the entire winter. The papers of **Erastus Hussey**, a Quaker conductor from Battle Creek, are also a great source of information.

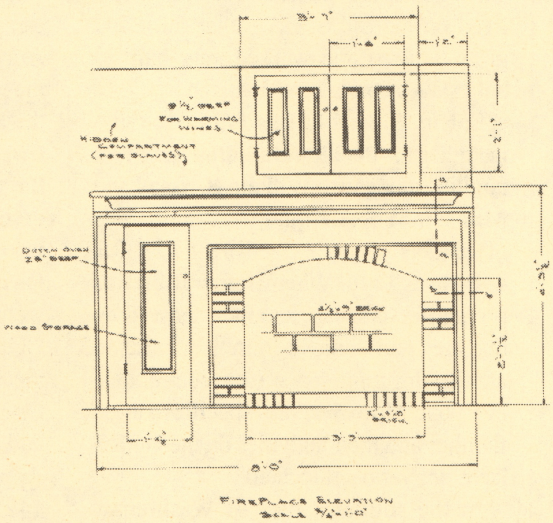
In Washtenaw County, we have the histories of various townships that were published in the 1881 **History of Washtenaw County**—while memories of the war were still fresh in people's minds. **Manchester Township's** history names several men who worked as conductors. Many also appear in an index of conductors working from 1852-1857. The names include **Gamaliel and Henry Bailey,** and **Captain Geo. Barker** (who tells a story of taking slaves to Canada in a false-bottomed wagon, and having the kingbolt break on Main Street in Ann Arbor, causing all the slaves to fall out. No one, however, gave them away!). In **Webster Township,** the **Hon. Samuel Dexter** was a conductor. There is evidence in the basement of his home, **Gordon Hall,** of trap doors under the porch—convincing evidence of a common method of hiding slaves.

Lodi Township had the services of **Capt. John Lowry,** a Conductor and Station Master, whose home was on Ann Arbor-Saline Road. He was a very interesting person and his name appears on many lists. He was considered an eccentric because he didn't hide his beliefs and even had a banner in front of his house proclaiming "Liberty for all fugitives and the oppressed of the world." He is linked with many others including another Station Master, **Sylvester Noble,** father of **Pamela Noble,** who lived on Chapin Street in Ann Arbor, and were also ardent supporters of the cause.

Pittsfield Township had some very interesting activists. **Jacob Aray** and his son **Asher**, were natives of Pennsylvania, and Jacob was unusual in that his wife was Black. They arrived very early in Washtenaw County and bought a lot of land and were successful farmers. Asher was very active as a conductor and we have excellent documentation for his activities. He was known to have worked with the **Harwood Family** and with **Roswell Preston,** his next door neighbor. The Harwood house still stands today and we are still searching for the others.

Another Conductor was **John Geddes** of **Ann Arbor Township** who we know was very active in the Anti-Slavery Society. He is listed in the Black Book as a conductor, and I should note that the Minutes of the Anti-Slavery Society are located at the Clements Library here in Ann Arbor. However, other documents from this society are at the Charles Wright African-American Museum in Detroit.

In **Ann Arbor City**, we have **Guy Beckley,** the publisher of the ***Signal of Liberty,*** who was a very active abolitionist and lectured across the state. His home at **1425 Pontiac Trail** is known to have housed fugitive slaves and is still actively used today [the current owners were in the audience and were acknowledged and thanked for allowing their house to be nominated to the Freedom Trail in Michigan]. The home of **William Perry** at **1317 Pontiac Trail** is also thought to be the house of a conductor. The drawings of the home done for the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1959 have an area next to the fireplace clearly marked as "hidden compartment for slaves." But more research needs to be done to corroborate his activities on the UGRR.



Historic American Buildings Survey drawing (1959) indicating "hidden compartment for slaves" at 1317 Pontiac.

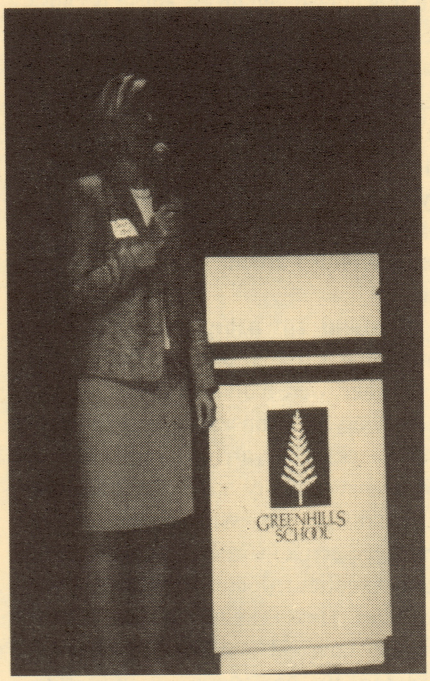


Photo: Susan Wineberg
Carol Mull speaks on the Underground Railroad.

Near these houses on Pontiac Trail is a former one-room brick schoolhouse at **1202 Traver Road** (built in 1840 and converted to a residence 20 years later). The school was built with money donated by the Beckley family (Guy's brother Josiah also resided on Pontiac Trail) and it also has a trap door leading to a hiding place in the basement.

Another friend of the Beckleys was **Sumner Hicks** who lived at **936 Wall St**, just a few blocks from the Beckleys and the ***Signal of Liberty*** offices. Hicks adopted many of the Beckley children after Josiah and Guy died and was also involved in businesses with the them, so there is reason to believe he may have been active in the UGRR as well.

Another very active family were the **Glasiers**, who were founders of the local Quaker community. **Richard Glasier** lived at **3175 Glazier Way** and his original log cabin was on the exact foundation of the current house at that site, now owned and occupied by Margaret Underwood. [Though 99 years old, she is still sharp and has written extensively about the Glasiers and her property]. His son **Robert,** along with his wife **Maria,** were active in the Michigan Anti-slavery society. They also bought the land for the first Quaker (Society of Friends) Meeting House in Ann Arbor in 1851. This building still stands at **410 N. State Street**, and was used by blacks as their church in the 1850s. Robert and Richard were well-known conductors of slaves to Canada and their house was a well-known stop on the UGRR. Other cities in Michigan with large Quaker populations were Battle Creek and Adrian, and both had very active Anti-slavery societies. However, Ann Arbor had a large number of Congregationalists and Presbyterians who were also active in the Abolitionist Movement.

Ypsilanti had a very active Underground Railroad group. It has not been thoroughly researched but many names are known from this community, including **George and Mildred McCoy, Leonard Chase, Maria Morton,** the **Prescott** family, **Mary and Samuel Moore, Justus and Mark Norris**, and **Helen and William McAndrew.** All these people were named in documents that speak to their activities with the UGRR. The McCoys were the parents of **Elijah McCoy,** inventor of a lubricating device for trains that is believed to be the basis for the expression 'the real McCoy.' Their daughter, Anna, was interviewed years later and spoke of what it was like to run their household, and how they transported slaves in false bottomed wagons filled with cigars headed for Wyandotte. George McCoy was a former slave who had been freed by his master. He married a slave and together they came to Ypsilanti. They lived on the old Starkweather farm and grew tobacco and worked very hard to help slaves coming to Michigan.

Salem Township was full of activists including the **Peebles, Hamilton** and **Pratt** families, along with **William B. Mead** and **Munson Wheeler** who were supporters of the Liberty Party and active in the UGRR as early as 1846. When **Henry Bibb** was brought in to speak, so many showed up that they had to move from the church to another meeting space to accommodate everyone. However, sites specific to these families and their activities on the UGRR have not yet been located.

In the southern part of Washtenaw County, **Prince Bennett** was very active in **Augusta Township.** His house (slide shown-house no longer exists) also had a trap door underneath the porch leading to a hiding place. This seems to have been a popular way to hide slaves for a short period of time.

What is in the future? A **National Freedom Center** has been established in **Cincinnati, Ohio** and is to open in 2003. There is an Internet site being developed, and the **National Park Service** is developing the **National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.** This is being developed both as a tourist attraction and as a research network. The **African-American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County** is also developing **two bus tours of UGRR sites**—one for Ann Arbor and one for Ypsilanti. They are hoping to get these operational in 2002."

In the question and answer period, Mull noted that the Fugitive Slave Act lasted until the Civil War. However, in her research she has not found a single case of a slave that was returned from the State of Michigan. There were several nationally known cases tried in Marshall and Battle Creek (home of Sojourner Truth, by the way) and Detroit where slaves were captured, but somehow the slavecatchers were tricked and the slaves managed to get to safety. There were many stories about slavecatchers coming to Michigan, especially after 1850. We know that the fines were $1000 and six months in jail for refusing to turn over a slave. We also know that after 1850 the routes seem to have changed, and that activity increased in the eastern part of Michigan (according to the Aray and Preston papers), and declined in the western part of the state (according to the Hussey and Thomas papers).

A member of the audience noted that the **Howleys** in Ann Arbor today are descendants of the **Moore** family (after whom Moore St. is named) who were active Quakers and residents of Lower Town as well. Another local name that crops up in UGRR documents is **Volland.** At one time there was a Volland Street in Ann Arbor. One member asked if archaeological digs had been done at any of the local sites. Apparently the Steinbergs had a dig at 1425 Pontiac but not much was found.

BY CYNTHIA FURLONG REYNOLDS

A History Of Chelsea From Residents' Memories

*In the lovely chapel of the **Chelsea Retirement Home**, about 75 people heard **Cynthia Furlong Reynolds** describe her research on Chelsea history that culminated in her book entitled **Our Hometown: America's History as Seen Through the Eyes of a Midwestern Village.** Reynolds has published four books this year with Sleeping Bear Press, three of which are children's books. Following her lecture, Reynolds sold and signed copies of all her books. Also following the presentation we had a fantastic tour of the Heritage Room by Connie Amick and others.*

Reynolds was introduced by Louisa Pieper, our Program Chair, and we learned that she has lived in Chelsea for four years (the longest she has lived anywhere!), after attending the College of William and Mary and earning a degree in American History and Literature. She has worked for the National Park Service in Concord, Massachusetts, and has been 'writing since the third grade.'

"One of my dreams as a child was to live in my own hometown. We moved so many times (14) that I had been in three third grades before I managed to get into fourth. I met a wonderful man in New Jersey after college, and lived in this wonderful hometown. I was overjoyed to have found a man with roots, and thought I could finally settle down. Alas, we have moved 11 times. On the upside of this, I explored many different places and visited many historic sites. So, my training has been to get the most out of wherever I was, in whatever short amount of time I lived there. I've always loved history and visiting historic houses and battlefields. I attended the College of William and Mary in the 1970s, when interest in local history peaked due to the Bicentennial in 1976. While there, I studied with **John Selby,** an expert on town histories and the development of American towns primarily of the south and the east and west coasts. He didn't do much in the Midwest. By working with him, I honed my skills in researching town histories.

After college I joined a newspaper as a typesetter, but I was always being pushed into journalism and writing. I worked on newspapers in Portland, Maine and New Jersey, writing about weddings and obituaries at first. I was given an assignment to focus on remnants of the Dutch settlements in New Jersey which were fast disappearing. Over the next 20 years, I got to write about interesting people and places (which included the Mafia!)

Photo: Susan Wineberg
Cynthia Furlong Reynolds speaking on the history of Chelsea.

When I moved to Michigan four years ago, I looked around for a similar situation. I was intrigued with the new magazine ***A2 Lifestyle***, which assigned me to write about Sleeping Bear Press in Chelsea. After interviewing them for four hours the first day and four hours the second day ('we really clicked'), the publisher **Brian Lewis** (a native of Chelsea) asked me to write a history of Chelsea. He gave me one name—**John Keusch**—a 91-year old attorney who has a steel-trap mind and still walks to work every day. He was a wonderful but modest resource, who filled my mind with topics to write about.

The first topic we discussed was the Flu Epidemic of 1918. The second topic was the role of women in World War I, and the cement factory on Chelsea-Dexter Road and how important it was to the politics of Michigan and the local economy. I eventually talked to 91 people, and learned that there are very few memoirs in which people talk about what life was like before the oldest memory in town. I found that startling. I was going to write a standard town history, giving dates for various construction projects and the like. But when I started talking to people, I realized the history of the town is the history of its people. I ended up writing an oral history of Chelsea, and in the process I wound up doing a history of America, writ small.

The earliest settlers in Chelsea were Revolutionary War veterans, or veterans of the War of 1812, and many were from very old families in New England. My book is organized by these eras, and then by decades in the 20th century. I start by discussing the events in the U.S. and the world, which had an impact on Chelsea's history. In the course of interviewing people, I learned about the Association of Personal Historians (APH), who are dedicated to writing life stories of people. I've joined this group and it is a wonderful organization.

I'd like to focus on the 'best' stories of the book, stories that I felt I could share with others without getting too personal. We can start with the two men who really established Chelsea. **Elisha Congdon,** the founder of Chelsea, arrived from Norwich, Connecticut in 1833 [we learned in the question and answer period that the name Chelsea comes from Chelsea, Connecticut, which was named after Chelsea, England.] "He and his brother James" had been forced by the early death of their father to work in cotton mills, but later James apprenticed to a carpenter. Like most pioneers in Michigan, their route was through New York State on the Erie Canal, and then by boat to Detroit, where they purchased a team of oxen and a wagon and headed west.

Elisha purchased 160 acres from the US for $1.25/acre while James purchased 300 acres to the west. Apparently, Elisha was the more strong-willed of the two, and is responsible for getting the railroad through Chelsea in the late 1840s (after the depot in Davidson mysteriously burned down—an event attributed to

Congdon since he offered his land for a station the next day) which ensured its economic importance.

They also determined to encourage others to settle in the area and many parcels of land were given to churches and schools as an incentive to settlement in the 1830s. The first family to join the Congdons was the **Winans** family (originally spelled Winant) and Winans Jewelers still operates today on Main St. Many of the names of the pioneer families are still represented in Chelsea today. This type of town is almost becoming extinct, but today it is still a self-contained community, with farmers coming to town to buy things, much as they have in the past. There are eight businesses that are 4th-6th generation of ownership. This is extraordinary for a town in this day and age.

The earliest settlers, like those all over the Michigan Territory, were from New England and Upstate New York, where a recession in the mill industry and the hard scrabble life of farming served to encourage emigration to areas with rich farmland. The Irish escaping the 1840s potato famine in Ireland, and German speakers fleeing the uprisings in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1848 later joined them. Although other ethnic groups came too, none came with the frequency and numbers of the Irish and Germans, both of whom had Lutheran and Catholic representatives here. There were church services in German in this area until 20 years ago and the tradition remained strong at St. Mary's Church and School.

Congdon knew he wanted to establish a thriving town, but he wasn't a visionary in terms of architecture and town design. If you go to Dexter you get an interesting flow of streets and a 'green' in the center of town, a pattern repeated in other towns like Manchester, Saline and Stockbridge, which have wide avenues. Mr. Congdon wanted business, so he designed the town around the crossroads at Middle St. and South St. Without a town green, the fiction of a New England town was not perpetuated and no elegant homes or churches or town halls surrounded the green as they would have 'back home.' Businesses still line Main Street and the churches can be found on the side streets. This was in sharp contrast to the New England communities settlers came from, which often had been established in the name of religious freedom and thus had churches as their main focus as the center of town. "Business is our business" was the motto of the day.

Elisha Congdon built three houses in Chelsea, and their construction follows the progress of the town. The first house was a log cabin, which burned down. He then built a pretty standard Michigan farmhouse (the upright and wing type with a 2 story main house and a 1-story side wing, recessed, with porch). When he became quite prosperous he built a brick house that is in fact a replica of a house on one of the roads leading to Ann Arbor in the Italianate style so popular in the 1860s. Today, this home goes by the name of its second owner, the McKune Family. A century after it was built, it was donated by the McKunes to the town for use as the public library. Congdon died in 1867 after fathering 15 children with 3 wives, so many of his descendants can be found in the town today, along with those of brother James who was elected to the Michigan Legislature in the 1870s, and who spent much of his time managing his large estate. He built a Queen Anne Victorian home on the south side of W. Middle St.

The second major figure in Chelsea history is **Frank P. Glazier,** who is responsible for Chelsea looking much the way it does today. He built the beautiful clock tower and Welfare Building along the railroad tracks for his stove works. Glazier founded this retirement community as a Methodist Home to honor his mother and it is still associated with the Methodist church today. Glazier also built a large bank building, now our courthouse, to honor his father, and built the stone gates on the other end of Middle St. to lead into the graveyard. He definitely left his mark on the community, so I begin and end the book with a short scenario about Mr. Glazier because he was our second visionary. He loved Chelsea and was probably its most well known and prosperous resident. But he also caused the greatest scandal while Michigan State Treasurer. He actually was convicted and spent seven years in Jackson Prison for monetary improprieties. [His life story is recounted in Louis Doll's book ***Less Than Immortal,*** available in the WCHS museum shop.] The story is still a painful one, as I learned while interviewing a 97-year old resident whose grandfather was involved with Mr. Glazier and didn't want me to mention it in the book!

The history of Chelsea is alive and well and I enjoyed doing this book now, since remnants of its past are still around. Development is occurring apace, and today there is only one dairy farm left in Sylvan Township, shocking when you learn that Sylvan was one of the largest dairy townships in Michigan, even 50 years ago. I managed to get one of the best interviews for this book when I

Photo: Susan Wineberg.

A typical room of a resident at the Chelsea Retirement Home in the early 20th century. Now part of the Heritage Room of the Chelsea Retirement Community.

spoke with General Dwight Beach three months before he died. I also interviewed the Holmes brothers, though by that point Howard Holmes' Alzheimer's was a problem. However, Dudley Holmes gave me magnificent information about the early days of Chelsea up until the day when Ernie Pyle died in the Pacific during World War II (his memories seemed to have ended there). Now I'm going to read portions from my book, which illustrate exciting scenes of Chelsea's fascinating history. In Chapter one, I describe the awful event of fire in the early days:

"Clang! Clang! Clang! *The sound of the bell ringing from the tower of the Sylvan Town Hall cut into the cold, clear night on March 25, 1895. The Frank P. Glazier family—Frank and Henrietta, their four young children and Grandmother Emily Glazier—were comfortably gathering in their grand Victorian mansion on South Street [now five apartments and in very bad repair] leisurely making their way toward bed when they heard the alarm. Almost immediately, the clamor of the bell was joined by the squeal of the Electric Light Company's whistle, alerting Chelsea's citizens to the danger posed at their doorstep.* ***Fire!***

Not an unusual occurrence in the days of wooden buildings, wooden shake roofs, wood-burning stoves, soot-clogged chimneys, and coal-burning trains that routinely belched smoke and cinders as they charged through town. Still, the joint alarm was a sound that caused every citizen, from babies snoozing in cradles to elderly men and women dozing in their beds, to gasp, sit up, listen, and sniff the air before dashing to their front doors.

"A year ago, the chorus of the whistle and bell had sounded a wake-up call for Glazier, owner of the Glazier Stove Works, manufacturers of the "Brightest and Best" oil-and kerosene burning stoves. That fire had destroyed the Glazier office building, two stores and the nearby Congregational Church. The smoke and flames from the 'nightmarish conflagration' had billowed into the sky and could be seen for miles around the sleepy Midwest village, past cultivated fields, through wooded copses and over barns. Farmers living miles away had jumped onto their horses, urging them into full gallop to dash to the scene of the fire, fearful the entire town would disappear in the flames.

"But certainly not this time.

"Still, as his family looked at him anxiously, Frank P. Glazier began pulling on his overcoat, hat and gloves. He could hear slamming doors, the shouts of neighbors, the sucking sounds of men running through the thick, gelatinous mud that was South Street. He would join them, just to be sure. Bam! Bam! Bam! As Glazier reached for the doorknob, feet pounded up the wide front steps and onto the porch. "Mr. Glazier! Mr. Glazier! It's the factory again!" shouted a familiar voice with an Irish lilt." Once again, Mr. Glazier's stove factory had burned to the ground, as did half of the Chelsea business district. This is when all the brick and stone buildings, which we see now, came to be.

We now will skip to the Civil War, and it's interesting to note that there are over 150 soldiers who are buried in the cemeteries in the townships that ring and include Chelsea. **George Till,** a wonderful amateur historian and Civil War reenacctor, has made it his job to try to locate as many old gravestones as he can. We went out one day, when we were knee-deep in snow and neither of us had gloves, going from plot to plot, looking at members of the renowned Iron Brigade, which even included soldiers from Ann Arbor. The two excerpts I'll read involve Noah's Landing out on North Territorial Road, named after **Orange Noah** who fought for four years and left service just before the war was over. His **brother William**, who ended up losing his arm three times, lived to be 98 and to father 17 children! He wrote his memoirs when he was 86 and he explained how he lost his arm:

"Having received a gunshot wound in my right arm near the shoulder, the first day, undergoing amputation the following day and two days later boarded the ambulance train for Goldsborough where we arrived the evening of the 3rd day; there with two others also wounded who were given lodging on the second floor in a brick building with nothing but the floor for our bed...remained there for two weeks." He and other wounded Union soldiers (made of cast iron?) were loaded onto ships that sailed for New York, where he spent three weeks in a hospital, and then was loaded onto a train bound for Cleveland and Detroit, where he remained in Harper Hospital for nearly three months. He received his pay and discharge July 18, 1865 and reached home the 22nd, 'to enjoy the fruits of the result of the War.' That November, he went through a second amputation because his arm had refused to heal. Eventually, he had a third amputation for the same reason. 'These are some of the trifling sacrifices necessary to be made that our country might live and remain one and inseparable,' he observes at the end of his account."

Among many of the citizens of Chelsea are accounts of their interactions during the Civil War and the War in the Philippines (Spanish-American War) in the 1890s. Many of the accounts in this book, as well as the photographs, come from private collections and are not available to the public.

Churches have been the backbone of the community for years, and **Zion Lutheran** has been especially good at keeping the records of its German roots, many of which are in Old High German. These records were later translated into Low German and then in the 1970s, two women who were descendants of the founders of the church, translated them into English. A copy of this makes uproarious reading for patrons of Pierce's Pastries Plus! Here is an entry from 1879, shortly after they had spent a good deal of money to open a school:

"A decision has been made to divide the congregation into classes according to each member's ability to pay for the church's support which affects everyone. The stated amount must be paid...Furthermore, it was decided that if Heinrich Daviedter does not take back what he said about the church council and if he doesn't pay the $30.00 for the pastor's salary, he will be expelled from the congregation. He has one month to do this." No record exists of Daviedter's response, but in 1890, matters again became heated:

"It was decided that we not let our pastor go. Also, wafers will be used, instead of bread, during the Communion services. It was decided that those members who will not have paid their arrears for the congregation by December 1890 will be expelled from the parish. Then, Mr. John Messner announced that he wants to be expelled."

I mentioned earlier that the Germans and the Irish began arriving in the 1830s and 1840s. But in 1883, the Eisele family— one of the many Alsatian Germans from Alsace-Lorraine— came to town. These were the famous stone workers who did much construction work on buildings both here and in Ann Arbor and Jackson. Paul Hoffman, a descendant of the family, wrote about the trip to Chelsea of Martin Eisele and family:

"Their anxiety and apprehension were heightened by the prospect of their impending meeting with their friends the Staffans, and Joseph Eisele, Martin's brother who preceded him here, and with whom he was destined to work for many long years. Running out of money as they reached Detroit, Marie and her brother Martin, were dispatched by their mother to beg food from nearby houses to sustain them until their reached Chelsea. Arriving in Chelsea in the early evening, they were met at the depot by Frank Staffan and his young son George, then a barefoot boy of eleven. With their meager belongings, which consisted of their luggage and their goose down mattresses, which were used on the boat, and 10 cents, which Martin found on the floor of the Detroit Depot, they were transported by the Staffan wagon to the home of Joseph Eisele on Taylor St. The strange cargo in their European attire created quite a stir as it passed through town, much to the delight of young George."

Schools were extremely important in the development of Chelsea and followed the same pattern as most schools in Michigan. In **1879 a Code of Ethics for teachers** was published as **"Rules for Teachers,"** showing how well the town supervised them:

1. *Teachers each day will fill the lamps and clean the [lamp] chimneys.*
2. *Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session*
3. *Make your pens carefully. You may whittle (goose quill) nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.*
4. *Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they attend church regularly.*
5. *After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.*
6. *Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed. [In 1933 Mr. Staffan married his wife, a teacher, and didn't tell anyone for two years because she needed to keep her job].*
7. *Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.*
8. *Any teachers who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool rooms or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop, will give good reasons to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.*
9. *The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week.*

In the 1940s, Chelsea was still surrounded by one-room schoolhouses, schools that had many loyal attendees. One of the men I interviewed was **Alton Grau**, who is a seventh generation German living on his Centennial Farm south of town. He went to Rogers' Corners School just next to Zion Lutheran Church, which sometimes packed as many as 80 students into that one room. There were 36 or so when young Alton attended.

"Times were so different," he recalls, leaning back in his kitchen chair and staring out the window in the direction of the old school. "We were all like one big family. You couldn't help but learn. The older kids helped teach the younger ones and the older girls kept us all in line. I remember that a little guy named Norman couldn't button well, so after using The Necessary, he would march to the front of the room, exposed to all the world, and the teacher would button his flaps for him. No one snickered—that's the kind of thing a family would do for you. And if we all got wet during recess, which frequently happened, we'd take our clothes off, drape them around the fire to dry, and do our lessons in our long underwear. You sure don't see that happening these days!"

I interviewed **Dudley Holmes** who was one of my best interviews. He talked about boyhood life in Chelsea—what they did for fun, what they did before movie theaters existed—and he talked about the joys of outhouse tipping:

"There's a secret to overturning an outhouse—and every boy should know it. Time was limited—we had to be in by 7:30 every night. That meant that our victims would be awake, vigilant, and within yards of our destination. We had to line up at least three, four or five boys—and preferable eight or ten—on one side. Someone would give a signal and with a properly engineered shove the outhouse tipped right over. Then you had to separate and run as fast as you could in different directions. I remember one old man came out with a whip and chased us farther than we ever thought possible. We had to be careful not to be seen—but even then, it was a small town and we couldn't wander far afield, so people could pretty accurately ascertain who had done the damage...Howard and I managed to acquire a fair number of spankings in those days."

World War I is the first major event that is remembered by still-living Chelsea residents. John Keusch was a young boy riding his bicycle near where we are today, and remembers a train derailment that killed 123 soldiers heading from Detroit to New York. Since the closest hospital was in Ann Arbor, every farmer from miles around and every woman who had trained with the Red Cross, came out and transported the dead and wounded to their homes until they could be moved to Ann Arbor. [A side story dealt with the only doctor in town, a very respectable man, who visited a lady friend in "Helltown" every Wednesday night—yes, Chelsea had a Helltown—which is where the Jiffy Mix Company is now. There was a string of little factory houses and when the red lights were on, that meant they were open for business. Despite this well-known fact, he retained his reputation in town].

World War I was a defining moment for Chelsea and for many other small towns. The Chelsea area was the biggest wool producing area in the U.S., and soldiers' uniforms were made of wool. Within six weeks of the declaration of war, some of the more famous local families made their fortunes on wool speculation. Chelsea was also a major shipper of navy beans, which soldiers lived on in those days, and a lot of the remaining forests were cut down so that more crops could be grown to feed our army.

The story of **Herbert J. McKune**, after

whom American Legion Post No. 31 is named, shows that World War I was not too short to have a deep and transforming effect on American society. He was born in 1898, attended St. Mary's High School and was killed in action at Champagne, France in 1918. John Keusch remembers him as "a handsome man and one of the last killed in the war." McKune didn't live to return home, meet friends at the soda fountain, marry his sweetheart, plant crops or start a business. He would never raise a family. Singular losses of the war like these transformed small villages like Chelsea.

The **Depression** hit Chelsea painfully and tearfully hard, as it hit the whole US in the 1930s. There were actually a number of tragic suicides, including men jumping in front of trains and jumping off the clock tower. In a small town, your fortunes be they up or down, are for everyone to see and those with too much pride felt they couldn't take the shame of losing their family fortune.

Some people in town were affected more than others. **Richard Kinsey**, who was born in 1925, remembers hearing neighbors whisper about sudden local deaths. It was rumored that one of the owners of the Federal Screw Works, who had just recently built an impressive new home on Main St and drove a brand new gleaming 16-cylinder Cadillac, lost millions at the time of the stock market crash. He suffered a mental collapse from which he never fully recovered.

Merle Barr notes that "people who haven't lived through a national catastrophe like that can never fully understand what the times were like, how very desperate people felt." Because everyone knew everyone else's business, a bag of vegetables or a few pieces of clothing might appear on a neighbor's doorstep in times of trouble. The town's shopkeepers would run a tab for long-time customers. "Times were rough, so tough in the Depression, but people had too much pride to ask for help. So, we found ways to help each other out," Kinsey says. He remembers the **Loefflers,** who owned a local butcher shop, offering soup bones to housewives 'to take them off our hands.' His father, the foreman of a sheet metal company, fixed the furnace for a neighbor with six young children. "They couldn't pay my father, but the next fall they gave us a bushel of potatoes—people helped their neighbors as much as they could and many of us went to a barter system of payment." We found this occurred during World War II as well.

I interviewed eight men for information about World War II and the invasion of Omaha Beach. **George Winans,** the jeweler in town, was flying a fighter plane over the beach. They talked about meeting each other by surprise at a crossroads in Germany, or at a café in Paris on the day of Liberation. One of the more memorable interviews was with General Beach, three months before he died:

*"Four-star general **Dwight E. Beach**, West Point graduate (class of 1932), rises from an antique Windsor chair when the doorbell rings. Ramrod-straight, he advances to guests, offers a steel-like hand grip, then invites visitors to sit by the fireplace in his ancestral home with a voice that has barked orders for more than 70 years. His hair is thick and white, his eyebrows black, his gaze as strong as his grip and his mind as sharp. He might be 91 years old, but few people would guess it—and he doesn't intend to retreat an inch from his struggle with age and time. He remembers the past as though it were last week."*

His brother was one of the 1200 Americans in fair shape that left Manila in December 1944, having been abandoned by MacArthur: *"Kenny survived the Bataan Death March and Mindanao, then survived the bombing of the ship and swam to an island...where he was recaptured by the Japanese and loaded onto another ship, which was also bombed. He subsequently died from an infected and broken leg."*

Ellis Boyce is a marvelous local amateur historian, who suffered a nervous breakdown after he returned from the war. He graciously shared his memories with me, relating what we finally faced as the psychological effects of war only really with the Vietnam War. Eventually stories came out about World War I returnees who had lived in the woods, unable to stand loud sounds or cracks, and given to tearful breakdowns. Boyce talked of his experiences on Omaha Beach the first day, and his time in the Pacific where he was the first naval officer ashore and had to assess the situation for those on ships waiting to land. But he hadn't really talked about his experiences until the author of **D-Day,** Stephen Ambrose, began advertising for stories.

"Life changed pretty significantly in the 1950s. In that year the U.S. boasted 1.5 million television sets. In 1951, it boasted 15 million TVs. And by 1960, there were 85 million sets. A generation of children sported Davy Crockett coonskin caps and Mickey Mouse ears, played cowboys and Indians, scanned cereal boxes for decoder rings, and sang 'It's Howdy Doody Time!' The Salk Vaccine was created to fight polio and schools began administering the polio vaccine on lumps of sugar to all children. Elvis Presley sang to swooning teenagers while Perry Como crooned to their mothers. The daddy of the 'Lone Ranger's' horse Silver was laid to rest out by Grass Lake, amid local fanfare. The Baby Boom had begun and life was looking good."

I interviewed **Jeff Daniels** about what life was like when he was a boy here. I learned how he became an actor and then I looked at the changes here over the years, with farmers now having trouble making a living doing what their fathers and grandfathers had done. I spoke with a seventh generation farm couple, farming a 15-acre farm, who have to sell it for housing since they can't afford to keep it up anymore.

I end the book, not with a story about Mr. Glazier, but with a story about his granddaughter, **Geraldine Glazier Kraft** who lives here in the Chelsea Retirement Home. She was raised as his daughter in the fancy house in town and later at their summer cottage on Cavanaugh Lake. She had never before talked about her grandfather because she was ashamed by the scandal. She told me what she knew and then said:

"I don't talk about my grandfather's troubles. It was hushed up here in town, and what good was done was forgotten. But my grandparents were wonderful, kind, caring, lovable people and I would like to have people remember them that way...all this reminiscing is very tiring and emotional. I won't sleep tonight, thinking of all the people and places and happenings of so long ago."

Around The Town

The **Detroit Observatory** has announced its 2002 Winter Lecture Series. On **Tuesday, February 12** at 3 PM, **Bob Grese** will discuss "*The Shaping of the Nichols Arboretum.*" On **Tuesday, March 12** at 3 PM, **W. Andrew Achenbaum** will lecture on "*Aging in 19th Century America: The Elderly before the Age of Entitlement.*" The last lecture will be **Tuesday, April 9** at 3 PM and will be by **David Scobey** who will speak on "*Impressions of the Nation: Print Technologies, Victorian Culture, and American Nation Building.*" All lectures are at the Observatory at 1398 E. Ann Street and are free and open to the first 40 people who enter. Winter Open Houses will be held on **Tuesdays February 19, March 19**, and **April 23** from 11 AM-2 PM and on **Wednesdays February 6, March 6**, and **April 10** from 2-5 PM. You can also take an online tour of the Observatory by visiting their website at **www.DetroitObservatory.Umich.edu** and clicking on 'virtual tour.'

In other Observatory News, plans are already underway for the celebration of the **Sesquicentennial** in **2004** (these folks like to plan ahead!) and their last newsletter featured our own **Louisa Pieper** as one of their most dedicated docents. Director **Patricia Whitesell** also reported that President **Tappan's bookcases** have been located in North Carolina. They were purchased by a graduate of the UM Medical School in 1980 from Property Disposition! The University has since established a policy to prevent the sale of historical items in the future.

The **Old West Side Association** was singled out in the newsletter of the **Michigan Historic Preservation Network** for proactively promoting the **state tax credit program** through workshops and their newsletter. The SHPO has received 12 applications for tax credit projects from them, ranging from exterior painting and masonry repair to updated kitchens and bathrooms. "Old West Side residents are rehabilitating their homes and saving money doing it."

The folks at **Cobblestone Farm** are asking for volunteers to bring a **horse or ox** to the farm to plow the garden during their **Celebration of Spring Event** on **Sunday, April 21**. If you are interested, call **Ed Rice** at **734-994-2928.**

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County will hold their next meeting on **Sunday, February 24** at 5205 Elliot Dr. St Joseph Mercy Hospital/ McAuley Health Center at 1:30 PM. Use Parking lot "P." The speaker will be **Dr. DeWitt S. Dykes, Jr.,** Associate Prof. of History at Oakland University. He will be lecturing on *"African-American Genealogy: Solving Problems and Achieving Success."* The class after will be on **Gentech** and will presented by **Sharon Brevoort** and **Bobbie Snow**. These lectures and classes are free and open to anyone.

The Genealogical Society meets every fourth Sunday at 1:30. Future topics to be covered will be on: research in the Thumb and Civil War military research (**March 24),** the State of Michigan Archives and scanning for genealogists (**April 28**), and "Evidence" and 'there are no dumb questions" (**May 19).** The **Annual Picnic** will be held on June 23 and in the summer a **cemetery reading** will take place on one or two Sundays between late July and early September (TBA). Learn more about the society by visiting their website at **www.hvcn.org/info/gswc/.**

Around The County

The Saline Area Historical Society has announced its Lecture Series for Winter 2002. The first will be held **Wednesday February 20** at 7:30 PM at the Saline Railroad Depot, 402 N. Ann Arbor Street. Local historian **Bob Harrison** will discuss well-known street and building names and how they relate to 19th century residents. Mr. Harrison has always had an intense interest in local history and his presentation will draw on personal knowledge, contacts and research. Future programs are scheduled for **March 20 (bottle collecting)** and **April 17 (the home front during World War II.)** The talks are free and open to the public and light refreshments are served. Mark your calendars now for the re-opening of the **Rentschler Farm** on **Saturday May 11.** For more information call either Agnes Dikeman at **734-769-2219** or Wayne Clements at **734-429-9621**. And come and see the **Museum on Main Street's Exhibit on Saline** at 500 N. Main Street in Ann Arbor. This exhibit will be up until March 31. Call **734-662-9092** for more information.

And speaking of Saline, check out a new book entitled **Photographs of Saline,** published by the Saline Community Education's Photography Club and released in December. Several local merchants in Saline carry the book, as does Nicola's in Ann Arbor. The cost is $9.95 and proceeds will go to Saline Area Social Services Inc. The book includes images of Saline, farm fields, churches, the Davenport historic home, soccer games and the annual Celtic Festival. Some historic photos are also included.

The **Dexter Area Museum** will have the **Pioneer Arts Fair** on **Saturday March 16** from 10 AM-4 PM at Mill Creek School on Ann Arbor-Dexter Road. Note: this is usually held at the High School, but it is undergoing renovations now. And regarding Gordon Hall, the Dexter folks have come up with a unique historic way to raise consciousness on this delicate issue. The ***Ann Arbor News*** highlighted their unique Burma Shave type verses, quoting one of the eight, each of which ends with the rallying cry **"Save Gordon Hall":** *"At a fair price, we hope to buy it, C'mon U-M Regents, let us try it."* Makes me want to take a drive to Dexter!

In November, the ***Ann Arbor News*** ran an article on the **Manchester Area Historical Society's** effort to purchase the 114-year old Village Hall on S. Clinton Street. The group wanted to buy it and make it into a museum but found the $175,000 price too much of a hurdle. They will, however, be vigilant about preserving the building's historic integrity.

In **Salem Township,** homeowner opposition **defeated** a proposal that would have created a **historic district** in this eastern township in Washtenaw County. Salem is a hamlet of about 65 acres with about 100 historic homes, a couple of 100-year old churches, and an old wooden general store still in use. Though the tracks remain, the old depot is long gone. Some believe it was an important stop on the Underground Railroad in the 1860s. But residents believed paperwork and loss of control would burden them, and supervisor Fred Roperti bowed to the will of the people.

Depot Town in **Ypsilanti** has been in the news lately, with the announcement that Linda French, the owner of the Sidetrack Café, has renovated her former antique store (once a blacksmith shop) into a jazz bar and banquet facility. Also of interest in Ypsilanti is the **Michigan Antique Fire Equipment Preservation Group,** which has a nice brochure highlighting their historic fire station museum and planned expansion. They are open the second Sunday of the month and by appointment

and are located at 110 W. Cross St. Call **734-547-0663** for more information. This free museum is a wonderful place for families!

Local preservation activist **Barry Lonik** has resigned as the director of **Washtenaw Land Trust** but continues to chair the county's Natural Area Preservation Program. Tom O'Brien, president of the WLT noted Lonik's contributions in saving over 1,000 acres of Washtenaw County land.

Beyond Washtenaw

The **Plymouth Historical Society's Museum** has announced many events for February and March. On **Monday February 11** they are holding the **Grand Opening of the Weldon Petz Abraham Lincoln Collection**. On **Sunday February 17** there is a museum **Open House** from 1-5 PM featuring Abe and Mary and **Civil War Reeanactors,** Civil War Musicians, and more. On **Saturday March 2, Sandra Hansen** of Women's History ALIVE! will present a one-woman play entitled *"Civil War Women."* This play is a unique view of the war through the diaries and biographies of five extraordinary, yet ordinary women. The Museum is located at 155 S. Main St and can be reached at 734-455-8940. Or you can visit their website at **www.plymouth.lib.mi.us~history.**

In **Detroit, The Inn on Ferry Street** is finally open! On December 6, the Inn was officially opened with great fanfare. The Inn is really a series of 5 restored 19th century houses, together forming a bed and breakfast of 42 rooms. It is a joint project of the Detroit Institute of Arts and the University Cultural Center Association. To book rooms, which average $100/night, call **313-871-6000.**

A new website that will serve as a clearinghouse for rehab in Detroit has recently been created: **www.detroitpreservation.com.** It was developed by Andrew Koper and is for architects, historic building owners, tradespeople and others who can browse for free. And also in Detroit, a new president-elect of Preservation Wayne is Ric Geyer, who was part of the transition team for Mayor Kilpatrick. Maybe preservation will become a front burner issue in Detroit's future.

Helping spur this along might be the fact that Detroit was singled out in the current issue of ***Preservation*** magazine, the forum of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They noted in a two page article that Detroit is working hard to recover its historic green canopy, and reclaim its 1954 moniker as the City of Trees. **The Greening of Detroit** is working hard to replant street trees and improve 19 city parks and 9 schoolyards. Founded in 1989 by Elizabeth Gordon Sachs, The Greening of Detroit relies on a strong volunteer base and public and private funds.

Your Museum

The **sump pump** has been installed and we are waiting for some really bad weather to see how it holds up. It is certainly doing its job now and we hope we've solved the problem to our neighbors' satisfaction. We are keeping our fingers crossed that it doesn't destroy our garden!

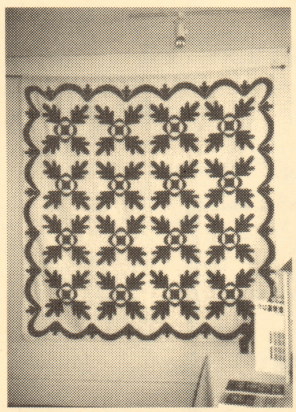
We had a successful holiday season with a steady flow of visitors and good sales from our Museum Shop. Our exhibit on Christmas Shopping ca. 1900 received a very nice review in the ***Ann Arbor Observer.*** Many thanks to **Judy Chrisman, Pauline Walters, Ann DeFreytas, Sue Kosky, Pat Thompson, Julie Goodridge, Patty Creal** for doing all the decorating. Thanks also to docents **Rosemarion Blake, Harriet and Carol Birch, Tom Freeman, Jay Snyder, Ralph Beebe, Dick Galant, Kay Huntzicker, Pam Newhouse, Karen Simpson** and **Peggy Haines.** We also had a lovely new sign donated by **Grafaktri** and we hope it attracts more customers! **Pat Thompson** and **Jay Snyder** helped with the installation.

We are busy with many projects as well. **Shelving** for our collections is being ordered and will be installed in 5-8 weeks. This should allow us to move more items to the Museum and reduce our costs at Willow Run. Judy Chrisman and Sue Kosky, with the help of **Gary Kuehnle,** are also busy sorting through the **Bach Estate Bequest** and will soon be accessioning those items we'll be keeping. We are also still discussing how best to invest the large bequest made to WCHS. A decision will probably be made within a month or so, as a new committee looks into various options open to us.

Ina Hanel continues to work on our website (thank you!), but our **Exhibits Chair Scott Jacob** has left and our **Vice President Ginny Hills** has resigned (thank you too!). We are looking for a new Vice-President, as well as someone to set up exhibits and help us with PR for them, and/or manage the Museum Shop. Any takers out there?

On a final note: we love our members and friends who have generously responded to our **"soak up some history" sponge** to the tune of **$4,899.00!!!** And a big thank you to **Charlotte Sallade** for the donation of the John Nowland Quilt which was displayed over Christmas. Nowland was the first white child born in Ann Arbor and it was given to George Sallade's grandmother almost 100 years ago. Thank you also to **Jeanette Schneeberger** who has donated items belonging to Adolph Schneeberger who served with the Polar Bear Unit in Russia during World War I. These include a helmet, book, photo album, and parts of his uniform. Also received were **Richard Schneeberger's** uniform from his service with the Merchant Marines in World War II.

Photo: Pat Thompson. Jay Snyder examines our new sign donated by Grafaktri.



Quilt made by the wife of Uncle John Nowland, the first white person born in Ann Arbor (probably made c.1850). Donated by Charlotte Sallade in November.

Photo: Susan Wineberg The Museum is all gussied up for the holidays.

Program Schedule 2002

All programs are on the third Sunday of the month, from 2-4, and are free and open to the public. Light refreshments are often served. Members receive a post card each month with more details and maps of how to reach the meetings.

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 17, 2002
2 PM

In honor of **Black History Month**, we will have **Jim Mays** speaking on **"The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers."** He will discuss the history of this group and the organization that exists today to perpetuate the memory of this valiant group of long forgotten soldiers. This will be held at the Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Drive, off Pontiac Trail.

SUNDAY • MARCH 24, 2002 • 2 PM
(Note this is NOT the third Sunday)

Tammy Szatkowski will give us a tour of the **Sindecuse Dental Museum**, a fascinating and overlooked museum in the heart of the U-M Campus. See collections of old toothpaste tins, tooth brushes, false teeth and dentists' offices, much from the collection of **Dr. Ron** and **Maggie Berris.**

SUNDAY • APRIL 21, 2002 • 2 PM

Rachel Szymanski will speak on **Katherine Dexter McCormick,** the granddaughter of Samuel Dexter founder of the **Village of Dexter**. She is an 11th grade student at Dexter High School and won a prize for this project. Katherine McCormick was active in the women's suffrage movement and birth control movement led by Margaret Sanger. She also hired architect Prof. Emil Lorch to restore her grandfather's home, **Gordon Hall**, and later donated it to the University of Michigan. It was recently designated a county historic landmark and will be sold by the University.

WEDNESDAY • MAY 15, 2002
6 PM

Annual Meeting and **Potluck** will be held in **Ypsilanti** at the **Ladies Literary Club.**

We Need...

President Walters is asking for old cotton sheets for covering our artifacts and for a six-foot ladder. Anyone wishing to donate such items please contact her at 662-9092.

Business Support

This month's issue of *Impressions* is co-sponsored by

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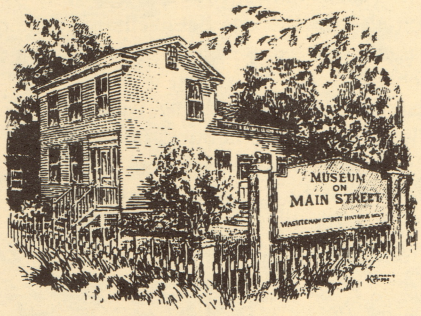

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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"SINDECUSE DENTAL MUSEUM"

SPEAKER TAMMY SZATKOWSKI

SUNDAY • 2 PM MARCH 24, 2002

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